Amount for obtaining information under RTI

†1110. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Departments have fixed certain amount to be paid for obtaining information under RTI Act;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said amount is being charged through cash/DD etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the Departments have displayed these amounts on a notice board;

(d) whether it is a fact that general public have to face a number of difficulties and pay commission to the banks for obtaining bank drafts to obtain information under RTI Act; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to create awareness amongst public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) All public authorities under the Central Government have to charge fee from applicants as provided in the Right to Information (Regulation of Fee & Costs) Rules, 2005. The applicants have liberty to pay fee by way of cash or Demand Draft or Banker's Cheque or Indian Postal Order as per their convenience. The Rules have been posted on the website of the Department of Personnel and Training.

(e) With the coming into force of the Right to Information Act, 2005, nation wide publicity was launched to sensitise the public about it.

Exclusion of information under RTI

1111. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to exclude more categories of information from the purview of Right to Information Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b): There is no immediate proposal to exclude more categories of information from the purview of the Right to Information Act.

Training by university of America

1112. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three universities of America have been selected for providing training to higher administrative officers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the report of such universities would be kept in mind at the time of promoting these officers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when this scheme would be implemented;

(d) whether there is any proposal for giving training to those Ministers to which these officers are attached; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to introduce mandatory mid career training programme for IAS officers at three different levels in their career. These will be a programme of 8-weeks between the 7th and 9th year of service, another 8-weeks between the 14th and 16th year of service and a programme of 4-weeks between the 26th and 28th year of service. This Mid Career Training programme would henceforth be a necessary but not a sufficient condition for promotion. Further, participation in the programme designed for officers between the 26th and 28th year of service shall be a minimum requirement for empanelment as Additional Secretary or Secretary in Government of India and for further increments after the 28th year of service.

The work of detailed design and delivery of each of the Phases of the Mid Career Training has been entrusted to the following pairs of institutions selected by an Expert Committee constituted for this purpose: